

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawing includes changes to Figure 4. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11 and 20 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Hamilton for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on November 16, 2005. At the interview, the Lai reference was discussed with respect to the disclosure.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Applicants have included a new Figure 4. Figure 4 illustrates phantom lines which would illustrate the plane of the planar base, a line of cutting and the plane of the line of cut. These features would be inherent in the drawings.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Figure 4 to overcome the Examiner's objection. The Examiner's objects to the designation of the reference numeral 78. The reference numeral 78 is illustrated in Fig. 5a and this is believed to overcome the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner has objected to the use of the reference character 162. Reference character 162 is identified as a button in paragraph [0034] and is believed to be proper. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his objections.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to anticipated by Lai (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,709).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further define that the planar carrier is monolithic with a planar base and sidewalls extending from and continuous with the planar base to define a channel adapted to receive the saw blade. A second portion is continuous with the first portion. The Lai reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest such features. Lai includes two elements which form the retention mechanism. Lai neither discloses nor suggests the monolithic structure as claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-10 which depend from Claim 1 are patentably distinct over the Lai reference.

Claim 11 has been amended to be patterned after Claim 1. Accordingly, the above remarks with respect to Claim 1 equally apply to Claim 11. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 11 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 12 through 19, which depend from Claim 11, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 20 has been amended to further define that the cam member is juxtaposed to a portion of the blade between the interface edge and the cutting portion. As was pointed out at the interview, this is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Lai reference. In fact, the Lai reference includes a pin which is remotely positioned from the channel. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 20 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Lai in view of Armstrong (U.S. Patent No.

5,535,520). Claims 9, 10, 17, 18, and 19 depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectfully. The addition of Armstrong fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Lai reference. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 9, 10, 17, 18 and 19 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 21 defines a releasably attached base portion which includes a first pair of laterally rails incorporated on the housing. One of the housing or base portions includes a latch for selectively coupling the base portion to the housing. The Lai and Armstrong references fail to disclose or suggest such features. Applicants would like to draw the Examiner's attention to Figures 7 and 8 which illustrate the releasably attachment of the base portion to the housing. The Lai reference and Armstrong reference fail to disclose or suggest such features. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 21 as well as dependent Claims 22 and 23 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

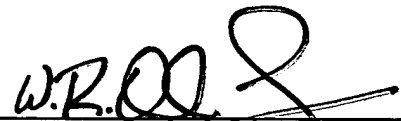
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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